



National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office

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NNSS ENGINEER PERLSTEIN COMPLETES FIRST NUCLEAR PACKAGING GRAD PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

LAS VEGAS – A mechanical engineer at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) is the first to complete a new Graduate Certificate in Nuclear Packaging offered through the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The program is offered through UNR in conjunction with the Department of Energy (DOE) and support of Argonne National Laboratory. Nuclear packaging is one of the core missions at the NNSS.

As a mechanical engineer for the NNSS Infrastructure Management & Modernization (IM&M) Directorate, Daniel's completion of the Graduate Certificate will extend his knowledge in nuclear science. The Graduate Certificate provides a curriculum in packaging for nuclear and other radioactive materials that complements graduate programs in mechanical/materials engineering, and is more applied-knowledge-based than research-based. It also gives such students and professionals an advantage in seeking employment.

"Packaging engineers are individuals with critical skills who are difficult to attract and retain. Typically, these engineers have many years of experience working in the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration's Packaging programs," said IM&M Director Joel Leeman. "Last year, we focused on cultivating our own packaging engineer. Daniel Perlstein was our selected candidate and he is the first graduate in this newly developed program. We are proud of Daniel's accomplishment and look forward to his future contributions to our programs."

Perlstein is responsible for developing and revising fissile material handling and operating procedures for certified Type A Fissile/Type B nuclear packages. He serves as a liaison between the NNSS Certified Packaging Center and each packaging design authority, and serves as a subject matter expert in support of the Nuclear Material Review Board (NMRB) as required by the Certified Packaging Program Manager. In addition,

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NUCLEAR PACKAGING.... continued

Daniel has completed the Pressure Change Leak Test required classroom time and 100 hours of hands-on leak test training.

Daniel envisions his work at the NNSS as more than just a job. It's a calling. "My current job is important to me because my country is important to me. The field of science and engineering is one of the lifelines of our country's national defense and we can't afford to fall behind our adversaries. There are thousands of military personnel who put their lives on the line every day to defend our country, such as my brother. Driving the distance to the Site is the least I can do."

"Every one of us at the NNSS plays an important role in keeping America's nuclear stockpile safe, secure, and effective, whether it be maintaining our sites infrastructure or working in research and development. I am very honored to be a part of the next generation who follow the footsteps of those who have done so much at this Site in years past to keep our nation safe," Perlstein said.

The NNSS has a rich and storied history. Located 65 miles north of Las Vegas, the NNSS also has locations in Livermore and Santa Barbara, Calif., Los Alamos and Albuquerque, NM, and Maryland. The Site provides support to the National Laboratories in carrying out stockpile stewardship science. Numerous global security programs also enhance the country's abilities to protect against terrorism threats.

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